

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 291430Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8980

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T MANAGUA 0451

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR THEBERGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, PN, CR, NU

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

REF: MANAGUA 0316 AND STATE 020512

1. AT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SOMOZA ON JANUARY 31ST, I SUGGEST
THAT YOU EMPHASIZE THE FOLLOWING:

A. REASSURE SOMOZA OF U.S. POLICY OF FRIENDLY, COOPERATIVE
RELATIONS, AND SUPPORT FOR NICARAGUAN DEVELOPMENT, STRESSING
APPRECIATION FOR NICARAGUAN SUPPORT IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OAS. YOUR VISIT REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO NICARAGUA,
AND ITS CONSTRUCTIVE COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. IT ALSO
INDICATES OUR INTEREST IN MAINTAINING CONTINUING DIALOGUE AND
CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH OUR FRIENDS.

B. STRESS OUR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO DEFEND NICARAGUA
UNDER RIO TREATY, IN CONTEXT OF SOVIET-SUPPORTED CUBAN MILITARY
INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA. SOMOZA'S PERCEPTION OF CUBA AS MAIN
THREAT TO NICARAGUA HAS BEEN HEIGHTENED BY ANGOLA INTERVENTION.

C. EMPHASIZE THAT USG RECOGNIZES COMMENDABLE EFFORTS MADE
BY NICARAGUA TO RESTRAIN ARMS PURCHASES IN THE INTEREST OF ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND THAT NICARAGUAN DEFENSIVE ARMS PURCHASES REQUESTS

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WILL CONTINUE TO BE TREATED WITH SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING. THIS

LATTER POINT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN VIEW OF RECENT USG SMALL ARMS SALES TO GUATEMALA..

D. PRAISE SOMOZA'S CONSTRUCTIVE MEDIATOR ROLE LAST WEEK (SEND-
INF FONMIN MONTIEL TO MEET WITH PRESIDENTS OF EL SALVADOR AND
HONDURAS) IN HONDURAS-EL SALVADOR CONFLICT. TO SOME EXTENT,
SOMOZA IS CONSIDERED ELDER STATESMAN AMONGST CENTRAL AMERICAN
PRESIDENTS. IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ELICIT HIS VIEWS ON WHAT ROLE
HE INTENDS TO PLAY IN FUTURE IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION, AND PROSPECTS
FOR SUCCESS.

E. EXPLORE PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S PUBLICLY STATED INTEREST IN
CENTRAL AMERICAN CONVENTIONAL ARMS LIMITATION. IN PARTICULAR,
HIS VIEWS SHOULD BE SOUGHT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF SUB-REGIONAL
AGREEMENT, AND ROLE GON AND USG MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY.

F. EXPLAIN U.S. VIEWS ON OAS CHARTER REFORM AT LUNCHEON
WHEN FONMIN MONTIEL PRSENT SINCE HE, RATHER THAN SOMOZA,
IS MAINLY INTERESTED IN EFORM EFFORTS.

G. IN GENERAL CONTEXT OF MORE ASSERTIVE CONGRESSIONAL ROLE
IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION, CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN OVER
HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE RAISED, MENTIONING PRSS CENSORSHIP
AND TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AS TWO ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE
ISSUES.

2. PRESIDENT SOMOZA PARTICULARLY WILL WANT TO TALK ABOUT ISSUES
(B), (C), (D), AND (E). ABOVE ALL, HE WANTS REASSURANCE OF U.S.
COMMITMENTS AND STEADFASTNESS OF OUR FRIENDSHIP.
THEBERGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MANAGU00451
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0389
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760110/aaaaaidi.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 MANAGUA 316
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRAVEL OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS
TAGS: OTRA, PN, CR, NU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006